WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose by reacting cellulose with an etherification agent, which comprises:

performing a first reaction by adding 0.5-4 moles of an alkali metal hydroxide per 1 mole of cellulose and agitating the mixture, adding 0.5-3 moles of an alkylene oxide per 1 mole of the cellulose and adding 20-95 wt% of alkyl halide with reference to the total amount of alkyl halide added through the first and second reactions; and

performing a second reaction by adding 1-4 moles of an alkali metal hydroxide per 1 mole of the cellulose, dispersing the mixture and then adding 5-80 wt% of an alkyl halide with reference to the total amount of alkyl halide added through the first and second reactions.

2. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed at 60-110 °C and said second reaction is performed at 70-120 °C.

3. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said alkylene oxide has 2-5 carbon atoms in the alkylene group.

4. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein said alkyl halide has 1-24 carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

5. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein the efficiency of said alkylene oxide is 60-75 %.

6. The method of preparing hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose according to Claim 1, wherein the efficiency of said alkyl halide is 60-70 %.

7. Hydroxyalkylalkylcellulose prepared by using a method according to any of Claims 1 to 6.